Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

1. (currently amended) A ~~An electronic~~ method for modeling a command

structure of a particular network component, the method comprising:

accessing the particular ~~a~~ network component, wherein the particular network

component is capable of facilitating communications in a network, wherein the network

includes a plurality of network components;

retrieving a command set from the network component, the command set includes

commands for configuring the particular network component, and wherein the commands

for configuring the particular network components differ from other commands utilized

for configuring other network components;

generating a representation of the retrieved command set, wherein the generated

representation corresponds to the network component, and wherein the generating the

representation includes:

generating a hash key corresponding to at least a portion of the retrieved

command set; and

generating a hash object corresponding to the generated hash key,

wherein the generated hash object includes metadata, the metadata including information

that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components;

; and

storing the generated representation.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~1, wherein generating a hash key comprises:

identifying a first level configuration command in the retrieved command set;

identifying a second level configuration command in the retrieved command set; and

concatenating at least an indication of the first level command and at least an indication of the second level command.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~1, further comprising:

generating a configuration schema from the retrieved command set;

wherein the representation is generated from the configuration schema.

6. (original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the generated hash object includes data from the configuration schema.

7. Cancelled.

8. (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the command set comprises:

retrieving a set of primary commands;

retrieving a set of subcommands for each of the primary commands in the set of primary commands; and

retrieving a set of bounds for a plurality of the set of subcommands for a first of the primary commands.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein generating the hash key comprises:

combining at least an indication of the first of the primary commands with at least an indication of the first of the set of subcommands corresponding to the first of the primary commands.

10. (currently amended) A system <u>for modeling command structures of network components</u> comprising:

a configuration hash key storage module;

a configuration hash object storage module in communication with the configuration hash key storage module;

<u>a configuration hash generator in communication with the configuration hash object storage module, wherein the configuration hash generator is configured to generate hash objects, which include metadata that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components;</u>

<u>a configuration schema storage module in communication with the configuration hash generator; and</u>

a configuration manager in communication with the configuration hash object

storage module wherein the configuration manager includes:

a device-neutral configuration command generator; and

a device-native configuration command generator.

Claims 11-14 Cancelled

15. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the configuration manager

comprises:

a hash object-driven graphical user interface.

Claims 16-17 Cancelled

18. (currently amended)   A method for interfacing with a network device, the

method comprising:

receiving a command in a first format, wherein the command is directed to the

network device;

determining a device characteristic for the network device;

accessing a representation of a configuration schema corresponding to the

determined device characteristic, wherein the representation of the configuration schema

includes a hash object, the hash object including metadata that identifies the network

device from among a plurality of network devices;

translating the received command from the first format to a second format using the accessed representation of the configuration schema; and

providing the command in the second format to the network device.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the first format comprises a XML-based format.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the second format comprises a CLI-based format.

21. (currently amended)   A computer program product comprising:

a plurality of configuration command hash keys, each of the plurality of configuration command hash keys corresponding to at least one of a plurality of configuration commands;

a plurality of configuration command hash objects, wherein each of the plurality of configuration command hash objects corresponds to at least one of the plurality of configuration command hash keys;

wherein each of the plurality of configuration command hash objects comprises both schema data corresponding to at least one of the plurality of configuration commands and metadata that identifies a network component from among a plurality of network components.

22. (new) An apparatus for modeling a command structure of a particular network component comprising:

means for accessing the particular network component, wherein the particular network component is capable of facilitating communications in a network, wherein the network includes a plurality of network components;

means retrieving a command set from the network component, the command set includes commands for configuring the particular network component, and wherein the commands for configuring the particular network components differ from other commands utilized for configuring other network components;

means for generating a representation of the retrieved command set, wherein the generated representation corresponds to the network component, and wherein the means for generating the representation includes:

means for generating a hash key corresponding to at least a portion of the retrieved command set; and

means for generating a hash object corresponding to the generated hash key, wherein the generated hash object includes metadata, the metadata including information that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components; and

means for storing the generated representation.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for generating a hash key comprises:

means for identifying a first level configuration command in the retrieved command set;

means for identifying a second level configuration command in the retrieved command set; and

means for concatenating at least an indication of the first level command and at least an indication of the second level command.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:

means for generating a configuration schema from the retrieved command set;

wherein the representation is generated from the configuration schema.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the generated hash object includes data from the configuration schema.

26. (new) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for retrieving the command set comprises:

means for retrieving a set of primary commands;

means for retrieving a set of subcommands for each of the primary commands in the set of primary commands; and

means for retrieving a set of bounds for a plurality of the set of subcommands for a first of the primary commands.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the means for generating the hash key comprises:

means for combining at least an indication of the first of the primary commands with at least an indication of the first of the set of subcommands corresponding to the first of the primary commands.